

THE LISTERAS OF NEW ENGLAND. — In a recent study of the genus *Listera* (Bull. Torr. Cl. xxvi, 157-171, pl. 356, 357), Dr. Karl M. Wiegand defines for New England three species, the well-known *L. cordata*, R. Br., examined from Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and Rhode Island; *L. convallarioides*, Torr., from Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont; and a novel but characteristic plant, which differs from *L. convallarioides* in having the oblong lip not dilated above nor contracted below, and in bearing near the base two incurved auricles. This species, *L. auriculata*, Wiegand, occurs in mossy woods or on damp wooded banks from the White Mountains through central and northern Maine and northward to Quebec and Lake Temiscouata. In Maine, where it is apparently as abundant as *L. convallarioides*, it usually flowers in late June, about ten days earlier than that species. — M. L. FERNALD.

THE LOCAL FLORAS OF NEW ENGLAND.

MARY A. DAY.

It is difficult to define the precise scope of the term local flora. The descriptive manual passes insensibly into the annotated list, which in its turn merges into mere collections of observations upon selected species. It is impossible to say at what point such papers cease to merit the title of floras or even of lists; since in indexing and bibliography it is generally best to err on the side of fulness, many short and popular lists are here mentioned. With the exception of papers on the willows, no list dealing only with a group of lower order than a family is included. Works which cover not only New England, but other regions also are usually omitted.

The most complete previously published catalogue of New England floras is that included in Prof. N. L. Britton's List of state and local floras of the United States and British America,¹ in which 106 papers are credited to New England — a number more than doubled in the present compilation, which comes down to January 1, 1899.

Some experimentation in classifying the works here enumerated has led to the conclusion that nearly all of them fall readily into two categories, namely: I. Those which aim at completeness in their

¹ Ann. N. Y. Acad. Sci. v., Apr., 1890.